



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

SPECIAL MEETING

November 26, 2007

CASA LAS PALMAS, 323 E. CABRILLO BOULEVARD

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Jordan, Daniel Hochman, Bruce Klobucher, Lee Moldaver, Jeff Phillips, Daniel Wilson

Committee members absent: George Weber

Liaison members present: Planning Commissioner John Jostes

Liaison members absent: County Project Clean Water Liaison Rob Almy,
Councilmember Iya Falcone, Park and Recreation Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Hochman to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 10, 2007.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

REPORT FROM WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Wilson reported that the Water Quality Subcommittee met with Dr. Patricia Holden and Creeks Division staff on Wednesday, November 14th regarding Dr. Holden's presentation at the October 10th Committee Meeting. The Subcommittee discussed Dr. Holden's initial findings as well as a new research tool called phylochip technology, which consists of a single-use microchip that measures the DNA of bacteria in water samples, providing greater detail than current technology.

Mr. Klobucher asked about the cost of the chip, and how it compares to the current cost of testing.

Mr. Benson reported that the technology was relatively expensive when established, but that the cost has significantly decreased. Currently the Creeks Division pays far less than the cost of the phylochip for indicator bacteria testing.

Mr. Phillips reported that the phylochip has a library of pathogens and bacteria types specific to thousands of species and matches those to DNA present in the samples.

Mr. Moldaver asked whether the Creeks Division was connected with the Water Quality Cooperative Alliance that the County took action on last week.

Mr. Benson reported that he attended a Southern California Wetland Recovery Project meeting at which he informed County Supervisor Salud Carbajal that the Creeks Division would be happy to provide information, but would not be investing staff hours in the County Project at this time.

COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hochman reported that the City Administrator held a meeting of City Advisory Group chairs and vice chairs on November 8th. The meeting was well attended, and Mr. Hochman was encouraged by the fact that several groups noted how hard the Creeks Division works raising awareness of creek-related issues in the community.

Mr. Wilson asked about external communication by Committee Members regarding a letter Mr. Jordan wrote to the Santa Barbara News-Press.

Mr. Jordan reported that Mr. Benson will be adding the issue as an agenda item at the December or January meeting.

Mr. Moldaver noted that he referenced the Committee in a letter he sent as a private citizen to the Montecito Journal regarding the Bird Refuge.

BUSINESS ITEMS

6a. “Plan Santa Barbara” General Plan Update

Recommendation:

That the Committee identify and prioritize creek and Ocean-related policy issues for the City Planning Division to consider in the current General Plan update.

Documents:

Staff Report – November 2007
Handout – Creeks Division Staff Meeting Notes
Handout – Email Correspondence from Brian Trautwein

Speakers:

Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Mr. Benson reported that the Planning Division requested that the Committee identify and prioritize issues related to creek and ocean policy, and that the next step in the General Plan Update will be to look at existing policies and see where there are gaps in the information.

Mr. Jostes distributed a handout including 11 goals from the Creeks Development Standards document, and noted that the “Watershed Guide” contains relevant goals and issues.

The Committee identified the following issues for the Planning Division to include in the General Plan update process:

- Non-point Source Pollution
- Storm Water Capture / Treatment (natural methods, low-impact development)
- Creek Setbacks / Buffers
- No Further Channelization of Creeks / Flood Control
- Creek Restoration
- Increase Permeable Surfaces
- Transfer of Development Rights (as land protection tool)
- Water Quality (biological / aquatic habitat, as well as human health)
- Public Health
- Education / Outreach / Research regarding Water Quality and Creek Restoration Issues
- Use Non-invasive Plants / Remove Invasives
- Habitat Protection and Improvements (connectivity, special status, keystone species)
- Water Quality Improvements (beach, ocean, creeks)

- Protect and Enhance Recreation (pedestrian, aquatic)
- Steelhead (protection and recovery)
- Climate Change
- Public / Private Partnerships (work with landowners to improve water quality and creek health)
- Acquiring Creekside Land
- Inter- and Intra-Agency Collaboration on Watershed Planning
- Awareness of Cumulative Impacts of Development on Watersheds
- Watershed Planning / Management
- Impacts of Density Near Creeks
- Daylighting Creeks
- Integrated Pest Management (reduce chemical inputs to surface water)
- Erosion / Sedimentation Prevention
- Enforcement of Water Quality Protection Laws
- Provide Definitions of General Plan Terms

Mr. Jostes left at 6:56pm.

Motion:

Committee members Hochman/Phillips to direct Creeks Division staff to compile list and forward to Planning Division staff on behalf of the Committee, and invite their questions and feedback.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee Members Phillips/Hochman to adjourn.

Chair Jordan adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager